Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

SELA Delegates Comment on Support of Panama *[Panama City]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

U.S. Demonstrates 'Arrogance' in Panama 3
Further Reports on Mozambican President's Visit 3
More on Isle of Youth Visit 3
Cooperation Agreement Signed 3
Chissano Holds News Conference 3
Further on Remarks to Press 4
Castro Sees Chissano Off 4
Amnesty International Group Pays Official Visit 4
Raul Roa Meets Envoys of Nonaligned Countries 4
Castro To Chair Pan-Am Games Organizing Group 5
Ecuadoreans Seek Cooperation in Construction 5
R. Castro Marks DAAFAR Unit Anniversary 5
Expert Interviewed on Effects of Penal Reform 5
New Rules Concerning Home Appliances Approved 6

Dominica

Parliament Approves Supplementary Budget 6

Haiti

Committee Studying 29 Nov Events Issues Report 7
Petit Goave Priest Transferred to Las Cahobas 7

Jamaica

Steps Taken To Intensify Antidrug Program 8
$13 Million Trade Deficit Recorded 8
Jamintel To Join Trans-Caribbean Cable System 8

Netherlands Antilles

New Government Formation Being Planned 8

St Lucia

Opposition Leader Comments on New Drug Program 9

Trinidad and Tobago

Marijuana Eradication Reported Successful 9

MEXICO

Creditor Banks Pay Final Portion of 86-87 Plan 10
Candidate Salinas Speaks on Decentralization *[UNOMASUNO 29 Mar]* 10
PDM Candidate Magana Criticizes Ruling Party *[EXCELSIOR 22 Mar]* 11
Briefs 11
Envoy to USSR Withdrawn 11

CENTRAL AMERICA

Belize

New Building Said Site for Intelligence Office 12

El Salvador

Col Vargas Outlines Military Actions 12

Nicaragua

Ortega on Contra Aid, Talks, Cease-Fire 12
Calero: Government Violated Sapoa Agreement *[DPA]* 15
Restructuring of Government Announced 16
Mozambican President Arrives in Managua 16

Panama

Government, UNADE To Attend National Dialogue 16
Government Delegates Named 17
National Dialogue Begins 17
Crusade: Strike To Continue 'Indefinitely' *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 4 Apr]* 18
CONEP Continues Support *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 4 Apr]* 18
'Many' Youths Join 'Dignity' Battalions *[MATUTINO 4 Apr]* 19
Solis Palma Rejects 'U.S. Provocations' *[DPA]* 19
'Leaders' Vow To Fight U.S. 'Aggressors' *[MATUTINO 4 Apr]* 19
Group Publishes 'Wanted' Poster of 'Traitors' *[CRITICA 31 Mar]* 20
Industrialists Rap Quick Reopening of Banks *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 4 Apr]* 20
Chamber of Commerce Decries Cabinet Decrees *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 4 Apr]* 21
Presidency Suspends Leave With Pay to Trainees 22
New Supreme Court Magistrates Sworn In 22

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Caridi Denies 'Grumbling' Within Army 23
Bomb Threats 'Psychological Campaign' Increases 23
Bomb Threat Against Supreme Court Judge's Car 24
Faction Opposing CPA Leadership Created 24
Israeli Minister Visits; Brings Peres Message *[Jerusalem]* 24

Bolivia

Minister To Visit Brazil To Set Sarney Visit *[EFE]* 24

Brazil

Joint Atmospheric Research With USSR Begins *[O GLOBO 3 Apr]* 25
Aeronautics Minister on Building F-16's *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 3 Apr]* 25

Chile

Poll: Majority Fear Consequences of No Vote 25

Colombia

Gunmen Kill 38, Wound 14 at Easter Dance 26

Peru

Inflation Sets Record; Economic Policy Rapped *[EFE]* 26
President Garcia To Leave for Europe 11 April 27
Railroad Bridge Dynamited; Travel Disrupted *[DYN]* 27

Suriname

Netherlands' Minister 'Encouraged' by Situation 27
Ministers Assess Talks 27
Soldiers Arrested for 'Insubordination' 28

SELA Delegates Comment on Support of Panama

PA010337 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias has expressed gratitude for the SELA decision in support of the Panamanian Government. Abadia spoke to the international press in Caracas:

[Begin recording] There has been here a joining of wills; a strong, positive, practical, and responsible determination regarding the great problems our people and government are currently enduring because of the incredible economic, political, and diplomatic aggression.

This has been a demonstration of tremendous solidarity with Panama's cause by all Latin American and Caribbean nations at a time when we truly and urgently need the kind of solidarity expressed today at this meeting.

Our gratitude to Latin America and the Caribbean is boundless. The assistance they can give us—other than physical and material assistance—has already been given to us. It is the joining of hearts and will to really demonstrate to the world that Panama is not alone. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Commander Henry Ruiz, Nicaraguan foreign cooperation minister and member of SELA's Latin American Council, responded to a question on whether his country foresaw the possibility of a U.S. invasion of Panama. He said:

[Begin recording] For practically 7 years we have been warning about an invasion of our country by U.S. troops. No one has believed us. You newsmen told us this was a tall tale we made up. When did all this come to light? During the hearings on the Iran-contra affair, the plans, days, and hours came to light. I remember that even the date of 24 August was specified. Since we are well prepared, however, we said: These people are nuts if they step in. They did not. The point is that the United States has set up concrete plans, concrete guidelines, tangible forces, and tangible means to invade.

What is the objective in Panama's case? The way we see it, this is a major matter. The Noriega case is a major matter. Why had the United States not raised the charges before? Take a look at the developments. The problem is that the United States wants the canal. It is of great strategic interest to the United States.

Foreign Minister Abadia has charged that the United States said it could give up the canal in 1990 in exchange for a modification in the substance of the treaty; that is, that Panama grant permission for the United States to maintain military forces in the canal area. This would really distort the treaty. The United States therefore does not want the canal per se but a military base. The United States has made argument after argument—a large number in Abadia's opinion—such as the existence of Cuba, the existence of Nicaragua, the danger in El Salvador, and other things it keeps adding.

These actions coincide with many things, such as the fact, for instance, that in Nicaragua the counterrevolutionary military formula is being defeated while the political formula is leading to a solution. The United States is therefore losing its pretext.

The 10 years left for the canal turnover is but a brief spell in historical terms. We have been in power almost 10 years, yet no one is conscious of the fact that we are close to a decade in power. What would happen in 1999? The canal would have to be turned over to Panama. What would happen if the United States did not do so? It would be totally discredited in political terms.

So, why not create chaos now within an economy that is very fragile, that is service-oriented, and that, in addition, uses the U.S. dollar as currency according to a valid treaty, that of 1904? All this is unleashed to create chaos so Panama cannot comply with the treaty because it would not have the personnel, would not have established the conditions, and would not be, therefore, in a position to exert control over the canal. The United States would convene the international community, and Latin America itself, and say: Panamanians, you are not ready; this allows us to revise the treaty, and the canal remains in our hands. [end recording]

The SELA Caracas meeting was evaluated at the closing session by SELA Latin American Council President Rafael Garcia Velasco:

[Begin recording] We have reached the end of our discussions, and we are pleased to see that Latin America and the Caribbean have strengthened their solidarity and the fundamental principles of their legal order, which are peace, security, and understanding among our countries. I am pleased to see that the Latin American spirit has guided all the delegations, which have expressed their decision to join ranks around positions that have long been held in our countries.

We have made our voices heard in defense of justice, which is a guarantee of peace and peaceful coexistence. We have expressed our concern and condemned actions against Panama, whose people we fraternally support in the defense of their sovereign rights. Our decision reflects the commitment of Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen regional cooperation to seek solutions for the problems that adversely affect all SELA members. It is also a clear proof of the desire of our governments to join efforts to strengthen peace, to guarantee respect for the sovereignty and independence of our countries, and to promote collective action in defense of the principle of nonintervention.

We trust that Latin America's solidarity will yield a positive result and that the measures taken against Panama will be withdrawn in a manner compatible with the positions adopted by the continent.

This council has emphatically expressed the need to fulfill the Panama Canal treaties and to respect Panama's rights and interests, which are considered to be those of Latin America. I hope this really takes place. I also hope Panama may find—by itself and without pressures—real solutions to its problems within a democratic framework, which has been the subject of a solemn statement made by the Panamanian delegation here. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Cuba

U.S. Demonstrates 'Arrogance' in Panama

PA050230 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Apr 88

["Note" on the situation in Panama]

[Text] The actions taken by Washington with regard to Panama, including those by top-level officials, are increasingly looking like typical mafia actions.

According to the Western press, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz advised Ronald Reagan to abduct General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, and take him to the United States to be tried for his alleged links with drug trafficking.

The abduction would be carried out by a special team sent to Panama with the support of additional U.S. troops deployed to the canal area as a measure to exert pressure. The CIA would be in charge of preparing a coup against the current Panamanian Government.

Undoubtedly, this is an action typical of pirates and one that fits a government that is not being courteous or respecting international law.

The main U.S. objective in Panama is to remain in the canal area after the year 2000, which is the deadline set by the Torrijos-Carter Treaties for the United States to end control of the canal. Everything indicates that Reagan wants to start on that path before his imminent departure from the White House.

Washington seems to believe all methods are acceptable to attain that goal. Therefore, they speak of abductions, pressure, and coup preparations. All that talk clearly shows the arrogance that prevails among those who should be defenders of legality and sensitiveness because of their status as a world power.

Further Reports on Mozambican President's Visit

More on Isle of Youth Visit

FL041320 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] and of the People's Republic of Mozambique, has toured the Isle of Youth Special Municipality. He was accompanied by Jose Ramon Fernandez, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Council of Ministers; Jose Ramon Balaguer, secretary of the PCC Central Committee; and Armando Manresa, member of the PCC Central Committee and first party secretary in the Isle of Youth.

Chissano's agenda included a tour of the Tercer Congreso del Partido dishware factory, built with GDR cooperation, and a meeting with Mozambican students at the 28 de Enero rural school. More than 1,700 [as heard] young people from the brother African country are studying on the Isle of Youth in 4 midlevel and higher midlevel schools, as well as in the multinational polytechnical schools. This year 156 Mozambicans will graduate as midlevel technicians in various areas.

The Mozambican president had earlier visited one of the Isle of Youth defense zones, where he was briefed on its organization and operation, and on its integration into the training system for the war of all the people applied throughout the country.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

FL042343 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the Frelimo Party and the People's Republic of Mozambique, have presided over the official bilateral talks in Havana.

The meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere and the participants discussed aspects of cooperation between Mozambique and Cuba. The officials also exchanged opinions on the international situation, especially in southern Africa, where the racist regime of South Africa continues its destabilizing policy and attempts to thwart the progressive advancement of Mozambique and Angola.

On the occasion of the Mozambican delegation's visit to Cuba, presided over by Comrade Chissano, a cooperation agreement was signed by the PCC and the Frelimo Party.

Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo and Secretariat, signed on behalf of Cuba. Mozambican Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi signed on behalf of his country.

The accord notes the extensive relations that exist between the peoples and parties of the two countries. It also specifies the areas of cooperation for 1988 and 1989.

Chissano Holds News Conference

FL041600 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1532 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the Frelimo and of the People's Republic of Mozambique, this morning described the results of his official visit to our country as most satisfactory. Speaking at a news conference held at the Palace of Conventions at the end of his stay in Cuba, Chissano stated that his trip served to underscore Mozambique's solidarity with Cuba.

Chissano added that it also served to stress that the change in the party and government leadership did not in the least alter the solidarity of the Mozambican people. He noted that his visit afforded a chance to examine cooperation and to exchange views on various topics. From now on, relations in several fields will be strengthened, he declared.

Asked about domestic and international issues affecting his country, President Chissano stated that the situation has improved and that he hoped it would further improve. He said the Armed Forces are undergoing reorganization to make them stronger, the people are receiving military training, and the amnesty law approved late last year had made it possible for nearly 500 bandits to surrender their weapons. Chissano also said that despite the destabilizing actions of the bandits armed by the South African regime, economic recovery has been achieved with an 8.6 percent growth in exports and increased industrial capacity. Agriculture is stationary but we believe the situation to be positive, considering what Mozambique is going through.

Chissano stated that there are no Cuban combat troops in Mozambique because Cuba's essential assistance is in the training of technicians in various areas, such as science, education, and fisheries. In this regard, he noted that a large number of Mozambicans are studying in Cuba, from the elementary grades to the level of higher education. He added that his country also receives valuable aid from Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Malawi, although Malawi does not belong to the Frontline States.

He said that investigations are still underway to find out what equipment had been used and who had used it in the assassination of Samora Machel. He denounced the large number of crimes and the plunder carried out by the bandits armed by South Africa, which have caused material losses amounting to $6 billion.

Further on Remarks to Press

FL041808 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Apr 88

[News conference held by Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano at Havana's Palace of Conventions shortly before leaving Cuba on 4 April; in Portuguese with simultaneous translation into Spanish—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] We would like to know what stage Mozambique is at right now in its struggle against the bandits armed by South Africa.

[Chissano] Late last year, we proclaimed the amnesty law, which came into effect in January. In the space of 3 months, the amnesty law, combined with the intensification of our fight, has resulted in the surrender of almost 500 bandits. Right now, we are proceeding to the reorganization of our Armed Forces to increase their fighting capability. However, at the same time, we are mobilizing the population so that there can be massive participation in the fight against the bandits. The reason is that the population is the principal victim of this armed banditry.

[Unidentified reporter] Presumably, during your visit here you discussed the negotiations in southern Africa, specifically, the negotiations involving Cuba, Luanda, the United States, and South Africa. How do those negotiations affect the situation in Mozambique?

[Chissano] The objective of the negotiations is to bring peace, to achieve the withdrawal of South African troops from Angola and Namibia, and to create the conditions for Namibia's independence. We believe that with such a victory, if achieved, South Africa would have to rethink its philosophy. The South Africans will have to realize that the best solution is to really accept democracy.

Castro Sees Chissano Off

FL041615 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1602 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, this morning said farewell to Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the Frelimo and of Mozambique, at the Jose Marti International Airport. Party and government leaders, members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Cuba, and Havana residents also took part in the farewell ceremony. [passage omitted]

Chissano and Fidel chaired high-level talks at the PCC Central Committee. On Saturday, the Mozambican president attended a cultural performance at the Guanabacoa museum. [passage omitted]

Amnesty International Group Pays Official Visit

FL011320 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] An Amnesty International delegation headed by its secretary general, Ian Martin, has toured Santiago de Cuba for 2 days. The nongovernmental group is visiting the country on official invitation. It has visited penitentiaries and spoken to inmates. It has also been to hospitals and met with officials of the state, the Attorney General's Office, and the tribunals.

Raul Roa Meets Envoys of Nonaligned Countries

FL011407 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa Kouri has received the ambassadors of the member countries and observers of the Nonaligned Movement accredited to Cuba, in order to brief them on the preparations for the special ministerial meeting of the movement's Coordinating Bureau on the topic of disarmament. The meeting will take place in Havana 26-30 May. It is particularly noteworthy because it will be the first meeting held by

the Nonaligned Movement on disarmament, a subject to which it attaches singular importance as a way (?to save) the human race from a nuclear holocaust and to promote the peace and security of all peoples of the world.

Castro To Chair Pan-Am Games Organizing Group

FL020155 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] The official ceremony to present the 1991 Pan-American Games organizing committee has taken place at the Palace of Conventions.

[Begin recording] [Conrado Martinez Corona, president of the National Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation Institute] The organizing committee of the XI Pan-American Games "Havana-91" is very honored to announce that Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, is the chairman of its Honor Committee. He has been an unconquered leader of our people on our road toward socialism and a constant and enthusiastic driving force of revolutionary sports. [end recording]

Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, is at the head of the committee created to take care of the details of the continental event, which will take place in our country in 1991.

[Begin Fernandez recording] The official presentation of the organizing committee is a decisive step taken to speed up the preparations for the most important sports event ever to take place in our country. The organizing committee should have as a motto to do a good job, to do well in conducting organized games adhering strictly to the rules and regulations of each sport, holding them with brilliance and, at the same time, with austerity. The games should be adequate but modest. This continental event, because of its scope and organization, will eloquently express our respect for the true Olympic ideal and Cuba's contribution to the development of Pan-American sports. [end recording]

Ecuadoreans Seek Cooperation in Construction

FL041657 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1607 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] A delegation from an Ecuadoran construction group led by its president, Hector Jacome, and the Cuban construction ministries have settled on the areas of mutual interest for bilateral exchange. The objectives sought by the two sides were set out in a letter of intent signed by Jacome and by Homero Crabb, minister of construction, and Levi Farah, minister of the construction materials industry.

Among other things, the Ecuadoran delegation expressed interest in learning about the construction systems developed in our country and the chances of acquiring these systems. The two sides examined the possible exchange of products, raw materials, technology, and spare parts, in order to further develop the construction materials industry.

R. Castro Marks DAAFAR Unit Anniversary

FL011914 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the FAR, presided over the main ceremony today to mark the 5th anniversary of the establishment of a large unit of the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force [DAAFAR] in the Western Military Region. Rodney Arismendi, secretary general of the Communist Party of Uruguay, attended the ceremony.

A group of unit officers were decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal for their great contribution and dedication to strengthening the combat readiness and capacity of our FAR. Among the achievements of the units and subunits making up this larger unit are improved quality in training, good care of the material base, and stronger combat capacity and readiness. This was noted in the closing remarks by Brigadier General Ruben Martinez Puentes, vice minister of the FAR and chief of the DAAFAR troops.

The ceremony ended with a dress parade and a demonstration of the DAAFAR's most advanced techniques. Five paratroopers and five Air Force planes executed a wonderful maneuver.

Once the ceremony was over, Raul and a group of FAR generals and officers visited the unit's historical hall, which was inaugurated today. The daily heroism of our chiefs, officers, and soldiers of the DAAFAR is well portrayed there.

Expert Interviewed on Effects of Penal Reform

FL011653 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1239 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Studio interview with Dr Rene Quiros Perez, Justice Ministry expert on penal law and one of the drafters of the new Cuban penal code, by Maritza Navarro for the "Morning Magazine" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Quiros] [Passage omitted] I can report to you that the Council of Ministers has just approved the decree covering violations of the domestic order. These are precisely the ones that have been deleted from the penal code. The decree law will be promulgated immediately. It will appear in the official gazette and also in Tuesday's issue of TRABAJADORES.

[Navarro] [Passage omitted] We have heard concerns and opinions; one of the questions asked by our working people is. Will the authority of the police and the courts diminish with this penal reform? What is your opinion?

[Quiros] I can guarantee, with full conviction, that the objectives of the penal code reform process were totally directed against this diminution of police and judicial authority. In other words, the reform has helped to strengthen the authority of the courts and the police. This is so not only because the limits of the sanctions have been raised for the crimes involving attacks [words indistinct] resistance, disobedience of authority and its agents, but also because of other reasons.

According to the new penal code, the police [words indistinct] orientation and observation of those who have received suspended sentences, those who have been granted parole. The police will also be in charge of coordinating how sentences involving correctional work without internment are served, as well as sentences involving restricted freedom.

Above all—and this is the most important thing—the police will be in charge of the direct application of the fines for violations of (?domestic) order.

The same new penal code accords wider powers to the courts so they can hand down the sentence they deem the accused deserves in each individual case, that is, the sentence that best suits the circumstances and the personal conditions of the author of the crime. This is what is called, in penal law, the individualization of the sentence. With these modifications, the courts will be able to distinguish between the man, the citizen, who is hard working and who meets his social, family, and labor obligations, and the antisocial individual who refuses to observe the rules of social coexistence or to meet his social, labor, and family obligations.

In addition, the courts will be able to make distinctions in either category according to the facts of each case.

All this reform of the sentencing mechanism stems from the fact that the courts have been provided with new sanctions by the penal code. I am speaking of the correctional work sanction with and without internment. The courts have now increased latitude to decide whether to add other sanctions of a [word indistinct] nature to prison sentences and fines. In all this, the aim has been to allow the courts to apply the sanction they deem most just, humane, and deserved. The law should not be an insurmountable obstacle in the application of these just, humane, and deserved sanctions.

[Navarro] [Passage omitted] Will many convicts benefit from this penal code reform? [passage omitted]

[Quiros] I can't give you an exact or approximate figure. However, what we must make clear is that the important thing here is not the quantitative results of the reform. It never envisioned quantitative consequences. It was drafted on the basis of qualitative criteria. Our concern at the outset was: Does our penal law respond to the social, ethical, and cultural conditions of our society at this time? When we concluded that a reform was necessary, that's when we proceeded to effect this reform. [passage omitted]

New Rules Concerning Home Appliances Approved

FL011523 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] First choice in the assignment of electrical home appliances will be determined on the basis of the most relevant factors in the labor and social field. These factors will be considered not quantitatively, but rather in accordance with their significance in the most recent 5 years of employment and at the present time. This is established in the new regulations for the distribution among workers of electrical home appliances and other articles recently approved by the National Secretariat of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions].

These regulations are broader and clearer than the existing ones, inasmuch as they make possible a better organization of the application and delivery process, and a more equitable evaluation. The newspaper TRABAJADORES will carry the full text of the regulations in the next few days.

Dominica

Parliament Approves Supplementary Budget

FL020048 Bridgetown CANA in English 0035 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 30, CANA—Dominica's Parliament has approved a supplementary budget of EC2.3 million dollars for the financial year ending June 30.

The opposition abstained from voting principally because of allocations amounting to 429,395 dollars for travelling and subsistence allowance and arrears of salaries for parliamentarians. Opposition Senator Victor Riviere said this amount could have been used for 29 low cost houses or for drugs, bandages and needles for the medical services.

Another which met with the disapproval of the opposition was the 32,000 dollars for the fencing of government headquarters in Roseau. Senator Irving Knight thought the amount could be used in the rehabilitation of the Portsmouth Secondary School where there has been student protests against conditions at the school.

Haiti

Committee Studying 29 Nov Events Issues Report

FL042044 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] The report from the committee in charge of investigating the incidents that occurred nationwide in Haiti on 29 November 1987—on the occasion of the elections—was submitted to the authorities on 15 January 1988.

The report, which was never made public, presents a panorama of the sociopolitical situation in Haiti from 7 February 1986 to the tragic events that took place at the end of November 1987, enumerating the various conflicting forces and the (?antagonists) noted in the society up to the time of the Ruelle Vaillant bloodbath, the Salomon marketplace fire, and the incidents that occurred in provincial towns.

The forces that hold the committee's attention are the Army; the church; the Duvalierists; the Unified Party of Haitian Communists; the Group of 57, which became the National Concerted Action Front; and major political parties.

In light of reports from certain Haitian Armed Forces organizations, of rulings handed down by the emergency examining magistrate in the court of the first jurisdiction, and of (?rulings handed down by) the Supreme Audit Office, and after questioning of the persons appearing in court, the investigating committee—made up of four civilians and two members of the Armed Forces—made the following report to the authorities.

The representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor to the court of the first jurisdiction of Port-au-Prince and, consequently, the entire Department of the Public Prosecutor, (can be blamed) because of its ineffectiveness in accomplishing its principle mission as head agent of the criminal investigation department and, as such, in charge of investigating and prosecuting all crimes. The committee highlights the fact that no official record was drawn up of the incidents that occurred in Port-au-Prince during the week of 22-29 November.

The police forces are also held responsible for not having established a security cordon covering all the polling stations and the points considered to be trouble spots because of the electoral situation existing on 29 November.

The Ministry of Information and Coordination is also held responsible for having been unable—despite the fact that it had at its disposal powerful government media—to raise the masses' level of education by means of appropriate civic-education programs in order to avoid excesses of such a nature as to disturb public order and prevent the realization of the democratic project advocated by the government.

The administration is held responsible for having failed to employ a policy of firmness based on principles of law and impartiality that would be capable of forestalling all action of such a nature as to aggravate the political climate or destabilize national institutions and capable of neutralizing criminal action on the part of both the fascist extreme right and the totalitarian extreme left.

Finally, the Provisional Electoral Council is held responsible for taking partisan stands, deviating from its constitutional mission to organize general, free, honest, and impartial elections; for having encouraged meddling by foreign powers in the internal affairs of Haiti; and for not having noted and admitted, before the Ruelle Vaillant massacre, that it was impossible to hold the elections.

In conclusion, the investigating committee of 3 January 1988, having been unable to identify, to single out, the individual perpetrators, co-perpetrators, and silent partners of the acts committed during the week of 22-29 November 1987, identifies them collectively, so that the Department of the Public Prosecutor can initiate legal action to prosecute and punish the guilty within the period prescribed by law.

Although it points out that the facts gathered did not permit singling out the perpetrators (?of these atrocities) and their silent partners, the committee feels there is reason to believe the macoutes and the Duvalierists, collectively reduced to fighting banishment and forced to defend themselves, might have been the perpetrators of the acts.

Finally, this report calls to mind the thesis that foreign powers were involved, but without furnishing any supporting evidence. It mentions the presence—according to certain intelligence sources—of CIA agents in Haiti.

The 29 November elections, had they been held, would have contributed to the taking of power by the candidates of the National Concerted Action Front, and these candidates would have presented a basically anti-American alternative, says the report by this special committee formed on 3 January 1988 to investigate the tragic events of the week of 22-29 November 1987.

Petit Goave Priest Transferred to Las Cahobas

FL042105 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Report from Petit Goave correspondent]

[Excerpt] Father (Boucicault), the parish priest who was obliged to flee during the 29 November elections, returned to Petit Goave on Saturday, 26 March, but not for long. On Holy Thursday he was transferred to Las Cahobas.

Father (Boucicault) was replaced in Petit Goave by Father (Andre Prevalus) from Limbe, who was installed as parish priest by Father (Adrien Vil) that same day. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Steps Taken To Intensify Antidrug Program

FL311542 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] (?Five) units are now operating to enable the security forces to detect low-flying aircraft. This is part of the government's intensified drug-eradication program. This was revealed in a statement from the government. Communications between the police will also be enhanced with a new system of radio communications to be installed. The number of security forces vehicles are also to be increased.

Dealing with recruitment, the statement said that plans are afoot to train young people under the (Hart) program for admission to the security services. An academy is to be established for this purpose and graduates will qualify to seek employment in [words indistinct] as well as the security forces, correctional services, and the [word indistinct] service.

$13 Million Trade Deficit Recorded

FL042208 Bridgetown CANA in English 1808 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 4, CANA—Jamaica recorded a U.S.13 million dollar trade deficit with its Caribbean Community (Caricom) partners in 1987, a sharp drop from the U.S.10.2 million dollar surplus a year earlier, official figures show.

According to the Central Bank and the Statistical Institute, Jamaican imports from Caricom last year increased 3.4 million dollars or eight per cent, to U.S.45.68 million dollars.

However, the marginal growth in exports was more than wiped out by the step rise in imports, which reached U.S.58.64 million dollars—an 82 percent hike on the U.S.32.08 million dollars of 1986.

The growth, according ot the Statistical Institute was due primarily to increased imports of mineral fuels, lubricants etc. This moved from U.S.7.3 million dollars in 1986 to U.S.19.1 million dollars in 1987, its December external trade bulletin said.

The deterioration with Jamaica's balance of trade with Caricom paralleled its situation with Trinidad and Tobago—with whom a negative balance of U.S.2.77 million dollars in 1986 moved dramatically to U.S.20.2 million dollars last year.

Jamaican exports to the twin-island republic increased a marginal U.S.1.6 million dollars to reach 17.7 million dollars in 1987.

But imports from that country doubled from U.S.18.9 million dollars to U.S.337.9 million dollars. This, according to the Central Bank's January economic bulletin was mainly the result of oil imports.

The next biggest trade deficit was with Dominica—minus U.S.3.4 million dollars, a marginal worsening of the position from a year earlier.

Jamaica also recorded trade deficits with Belize, Guyana, and St Lucia.

It maintained a trade surplus with Barbados—at U.S.8.8 million dollars, slightly better than the U.S.8.5 million dollars of 1986.

Jamintel To Join Trans-Caribbean Cable System

FL311446 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Jamintel [Jamaica International Telecommunications, Ltd] plans to join the regional telecommunications network which will link Jamaica, the United States, and the Eastern Caribbean. The Trans-Caribbean Cable System, as the new body is called, will see the introduction of a fiber optic digital system in Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Colombia, and the United States. This will allow for speedier transmission of information between the countries.

Fourteen telecommunications companies will join the system which will be officially signed in May in Colombia. The system will cost about US$130 million, with Jamintel contributing 55 million Jamaican dollars.

Netherlands Antilles

New Government Formation Being Planned

FL011213 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] A new government is being formed in the Netherlands Antilles. Governor Rene Romer asked the leader of the People's National Party, Maria Liberia-Peters, to form a new government based on at least a two-thirds majority in parliament following the resignation of the Cabinet led by Prime Minister Don Martina last week. The crisis came after the Workers Party withdrew its support from the coalition from both the island and the national level, stating that it no longer agreed with the austerity policy aimed at reducing the number of civil servants by 15 percent.

St Lucia

Opposition Leader Comments on New Drug Program

FL041340 Bridgetown CANA in English 1511 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, April 3, CANA—St. Lucia's opposition leader, Julian Hunte, has said his party is prepared to join the government in any serious attempt to deal with the drug situation here, while underscoring the need to prosecute the barons.

Hunte made the comment after the St. Lucia Government on Tuesday announced the lauching of a major offensive against persons involved in the illegal drug trade.

The programme provides for the formation of a special drug unit comprising police and customs officers and a national committee for drug prevention and abuse headed by a cabinet minister.

Hunte said he was appalled by the frequent arrests of the small guys who are pushing marijuana here and there while the major figures were not being brought to court.

I am saying the prime minister is soft on drug pushers or else he would have done something about the situation before, he remarked.

...Merely to pass legislation is not the answer. There is certainly nothing in the budget under health that would indicate that rehabilitation centres are being set up or that there is any programme to deal with those persons who currently need assistance, he added.

There has to be a crackdown, a very serious crackdown, on the drug industry.

Hunte said that drug enforcement should have been put in place at least three years ago, and the authorities should start going after the big drug pushers, who by the prime ministers own admission, they all know.

Hunte reported that he was studing legislation recently passed in Guyana, dealing with the confiscation of the properties of persons proven to be in the illegal drug business.

I believe that the police are capable of handling the situation if they were to get support from the government by way of legislative measures to convict those persons high up in the society who are in fact pushing the drugs, Hunte said.

He said the existing legislation was obviously inadequate to deal with the extent of the drug situation.

Trinidad and Tobago

Marijuana Eradication Reported Successful

FL011553 Bridgetown CANA in English 1516 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 1, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Army has reported some success in its four-week-old marijuana plantation eradication programme and says it will not stop until its mission is completed.

The Defence Force held a rare news conference on Thursday to outline what has been happening in south Trinidad's Ecclesville Forest—The site of hundreds of marijuana fields.

Officials reported they had destroyed 148 fields, 25 bags of compressed marijuana, 1,299 pounds of cured drug, and 17 nurseries.

The street value of drugs destroyed since March 3 was estimated at TT460 Million dollars (one TT dol : 27.7 U.S. cents).

The programme has had some casualties. One soldier shot himself in the thigh and another in his own foot.

Both were airlifted to hospital on March 17. The regiments senior staff officer, Colonel Ralph Brown, said both would face a tribunal when recovered.

The regiment moved in on the marijuana haven following a directive by government to step up its anti-drug programme.

Questioned about the multi million dollar cocaine industry, one officer said: We are taking care of that. He declined to give details.

Creditor Banks Pay Final Portion of 86-87 Plan

PA311550 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Mexico has received $1.1 billion from creditor banks. This amount is the last portion of the 1986-87 package agreed upon last year. The announcement was made in New York by Gustavo Petricioli, Mexican secretary of finance and public credit, and Banking Committee President William Ross.

Ross said the package is the largest handled by the international credit market so far and the first within the steady growth program known as the Baker Plan. Mexico has also exchanged a portion of its foreign debt for U.S. Treasury bonds. This transaction represents the first formal admission by international banks that the debt problem must be dealt with through a sharing of responsibility between creditors and debtors.

The package consists of loans worth $5.5 billion and the refinancing of more than $50 billion of Mexico's foreign debt. Upon closing the deal, the bankers pointed to Mexico's improved position regarding its foreign accounts, especially exports. Jose Angel Gorria signed an agreement with Morgan Bank to convert $3.6 billion of Mexico's foreign debt into bonds with a 20-year maturity period. This operation will save Mexico $2.5 billion in principal and interest.

Candidate Salinas Speaks on Decentralization

PA020207 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 29 Mar 88 p 4

[Speech by PRI presidential candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari during a meeting of the Consultative Council of the Institute for Political, Economic and Social Studies (IEPES), in Mexico City, on 28 March]

[Excerpts] At this meeting, the third of the IEPES Consultive Council, we have made up our minds to deal with topics that were considered oustanding and important during the electoral campaign, topics the community itself has asked be discussed in depth. [passage omitted]

Today we have spoken about decentralization. Decentralization, we must accept, is a necessary condition for Mexico's integral development and viability.

I have pointed out that I share with the administration of President Miguel de la Madrid the high priority given to decentralization since his campaign and in actions taken during his administration. I offer to maintain it as a priority policy, using as a starting point what has been accomplished so far, because I am convinced that it is a policy that should continue.

We have to move decidedly ahead in decentralization. This way we shall unclog the governmental apparatus, make government actions more effective, and encourage frank and determined social participation.

Thus, decentralization will become a factor in modernizing our economy and a means to democratize our country in general, while advocating a greater social equality.

Consequently, decentralization influences the important aspects of our national life: economic modernization, democratization, and firm progress toward justice.

I believe that the decentralization carried out in Mexico in recent years is the result of social demands. These demands are the result of a need for equality and for increasing the government's efficiency. This in turn facilitates the strengthening of the country's democratic life.

The government has risen to the challenge of improving the state's efficiency by strengthening its management capacity without neglecting its most important social obligations and by reassigning functions and responsibilities within the state, transferring them to state or municipal levels—even to society, in general.

Therefore, I believe that great talent has been shown in carrying out the decentralization, because it has strengthened state and municipal levels without weakening the national government. [passage omitted]

Given this solid and important basis, we must establish new goals by achieving social agreements. Decentralization will advance as a careful, responsible, and gradual process; thus, we will prevent any disruption or weakening. We must make progress in the economic sector to achieve a much more balanced distribution of production and commercial and financial activities throughout the country, thus strengthening our regions and states.

Likewise, it was clearly stated here that decentralization will have a formidable political impact to the degree that it helps solve the people's biggest problems at the municipal level. It will also allow the municipalities to solve and fulfill local political demands. This represents a great challenge for our party because electoral activities will be strengthened and broadened at municipal levels. Consequently, this will become an element that helps strengthen our party's process of selecting candidates. This process is currently under way with the full participation of our activists. Campaigns are being launched and community programs are being presented so that upon attaining victory we will have the proper authorities for evaluating and solving social demands.

We must not only attain economic and social decentralization; we must also attain a political decentralization, and that is only attained with democracy. [passage omitted]

To summarize, we want better answers to local demands; stronger states and municipalies; more and better options; and the acceptance that the free and sovereign states of our republic have their own social, political, and cultural values. We must also decongest the Valley of Mexico.

The road to attain this is precisely through a decentralization that has already begun with structural reforms and been increased by this administration in an unprecedented way. I suggest that we take the necessary steps to consolidate decentralization and extend it as far as the 31 states and the Federal District demand it.

Thank you.

PDM Candidate Magana Criticizes Ruling Party

PA311539 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 22 Mar 88 pp 23-A, 38-A

[Article by Jacinto Noe]

[Excerpts] PDM [Mexican Democratic Party] presidential candidate Gumersindo Magana Negrete has said that the official dictatorship is increasingly oppressing the people and that this attitude keeps the Mexican people on the verge of a social explosion that could affect the country profoundly.

When festivities started today [21 March] to mark the beginning of spring, the anniversary of Don Benito Juarez's birthday, and the death of a Sinarquista [conservative movement of the 1920's that was forerunner of PDM party] militant spoiled Magana's activities, an improvised meeting was held in this municipality and activities in Charcas were suspended. [passage omitted]

Magana only stressed the PDM postulates and continued to attack the system and the ruling party for not having fulfilled the government programs, which were designed to serve the people and "not to serve the [ruling] party," and for having increased the Mexican people's poverty.

Magana said the Mexican people already reject the PRI because, ever since it was founded, the PRI has been accused of usurping power and leading a dictatorship the Mexican people cannot remove.

Magana insisted that PRI members have been the looters of the treasury because they own the power and get rich every 6 years. [passage omitted]

Magana stressed in his brief speech that the Economic Pact will disappear after the presidential elections, because the government is using it as a political flag to win the elections. Magana said that once elections are over and the PRI wins, they will forget about it. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Envoy to USSR Withdrawn

Ricardo Valero Becerra was removed yesterday from his post as Mexican ambassador to the USSR on the instructions of President Miguel de la Madrid. Valero had not yet presented his credentials. [Summary] [*PA311917 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 30 Mar 88*]

Belize

New Building Said Site for Intelligence Office

FL041511 Bridgetown CANA in English 1503 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, April 4, CANA—Belize has started constructing what the government says is an office building for the Ministry of Home Affairs and others call the headquarters for the controversial new security intelligence service.

The plans for the ferro-cement building provide for an interview room, an armory, a darkroom and a strong room for protective security, according to government sources.

The building was designed by the local engineering firm of Mitchell, Moody and Associates. The 550,000 dollar (one Bel dollar=50 US cents) construction contract has been awarded by the government to the firm of Cunningham and Associates Engineering Co. Ltd.

The building is slated for completion by the end of this year.

El Salvador

Col Vargas Outlines Military Actions

PA050424 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Statement by Colonel Mauricio Vargas, chief of operations of the Armed Forces staff, on 4 April; place not given—recorded]

[Text] The Salvadoran Army continues carrying out its offensive, defensive, and security operations today. However, the Army will place special emphasis on the offensive operations to neutralize the FMLN criminals' actions, especially in the resistance areas. Last week we conducted the aforementioned operations, but we focused on the security ones to allow the Salvadoran people to enjoy their Holy Week vacation.

In the last 72 hours we have killed 13 terrorists in San Felipe Canton, Jucuaran jurisdiction. We participated in approximately 22 clashes, mainly in northern San Miguel Department, specifically in Nuevo Eden de San Juan, Carolina, and San Luis de la Reina, where the Manuel Jose Arce Quick-Reaction Infantry Battalion and the Atonal Battalion clashed with enemy troops. There were sporadic attacks in northern Chalatenango Department and Guazapa.

We have conducted approximately 27 joint civic activities in the last few days, which helped about 144,000 Salvadorans receive medical and dental care, food, clothing, and other basic items and assistance, which were offered to them through a joint civic program promoted by the national restoration commission and the Armed Forces civic-military department, through its Medical Corps Battalion and the regional military units.

In summary, this is the general situation of the operations we have been carrying out.

Nicaragua

Ortega on Contra Aid, Talks, Cease-Fire

PA050340 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0106 GMT 5 Apr 88

[News conference held by President Daniel Ortega with unidentified national and international journalists "moments before" meeting with Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano at the Cesar Sandino Convention Center in Managua on 4 April—recorded]

[Text] [Ortega] We are studying that proposal, because it is obvious that there is a delaying attitude; (?since) the U.S. Government approved a package of funds for the contras, the contras refuse to [words indistinct] respect the Sapoa agreements. This is related to the Reagan administration's lack of interest in reaching a (?peace) agreement.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] They are not supposed to be setting conditions here; they are supposed to come to discuss their integration into the national dialogue that will take place. They are to discuss this until the first specific step is achieved—the establishment of the contras in the specified areas. It is time for them to become integrated; therefore, if they wish to join national life now, they should immediately lay down arms, stop adopting an armed posture, and stop threatening (?through) directorate members the resumption of the armed struggle. They should put aside this attitude if they wish to participate in the national dialogue.

[Reporter] What about the postponement of the meeting date?

[Ortega] We are studying that.

[Reporter] Concerning the approval by the U.S. Congress of humanitarian aid, do you think the content of this aid is in keeping with the spirit of Sapoa agreements?

[Ortega] The package approved by the U.S. Congress is another example of the meddlesome and interventionist policy of the U.S. Congress, because it should actually suspend all kinds of (?aid) for the mercenary forces. In any case, it should respect the ruling of the International Court of Justice and seek ways to normalize its relations with Nicaragua. That is what the United States should seek with Nicaragua: normal relations. That is what is appropriate here.

[Reporter] President Ortega, [words indistinct] Republic of Nicaragua?

[Ortega] This is within the frame of Nicaragua's position within the Nonaligned Movement—Nicaragua is part of the Nonaligned Movement—and the close relationship existing between Mozambique and Nicaragua. We are united with that country by a common struggle front to achieve the self-determination and independence of countries of the so-called Third World. We are facing a common enemy. Mozambique is struggling against the imperialist policy that supports the apartheid regime and the South African Government in its aggressions against the Mozambican people and the neighboring nations.

[Reporter] Commander, [words indistinct] of that humanitarian aid?

[Ortega] The package in itself is illegal and unconstitutional. The United States has no right to decide on the type of regime Nicaragua should have. That is interference. It is not a package addressed to the Nicaraguan Government. It is a package the U.S. Congress is imposing on Nicaragua through those who will try to make us believe... [changes thought] We cannot accept any kind of package, whether it is humanitarian or not, from the U.S. Congress, because we would be legitimizing the U.S. interventionist policy. They are supporting this package; if we support it, we would be supporting a package that may include military aid now and in the future. They may want to approve a similar kind of package. Thus, we cannot accept that kind of package.

[Reporter] Commander Ortega, how is the [words indistinct] after the cease-fire agreement [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] The contra movement, some sectors of the contra movement, are violating the cease-fire and are provoking situations leading to a breaking of the cease-fire agreement. We are struggling to avoid that.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] for the meeting between the commissions that met [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] We hope not. We worked all day today, and we are ready to meet tomorrow to discuss the delimitation of zones and the modus operandi in those zones.

[Reporter] What [words indistinct] the tactics after the humanitarian aid approved for the contras was known? What is really expected of the Sapoa talks? Do you still think an agreement will be signed?

[Ortega] We must struggle for the fulfillment of the Sapoa agreement. We have important witnesses who came from abroad, such as OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Suarez, and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. Therefore, we must continue struggling to make the U.S. Government fulfill and respect the agreements signed by Nicaraguans at Sapoa.

[Reporter] Who should give the humanitarian aid, Mr President? On 31 March you described that aid in more or less positive terms.

[Ortega] What I clearly said is that I thought the next step [words indistinct] should make is to seek respect for international law and to seek a way for the United States to normalize its relations with Nicaragua.

I think if the United States were fully respectful of the Sapoa agreements, it should send the so-called humanitarian aid through the Nicaraguan Government, which is the legitimate and constitutional government of this country and the one with which it maintains diplomatic relations. The United States should not decide through whom it sends or does not send this aid, as it is stated in the document or the law approved by the U.S. Congress.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] We will strengthen the relations between our countries. We will strengthen the people's struggle in favor of independence and against apartheid, which is affecting the South African people. Nicaragua joins the cause of the Mozambican people and the Frontline States, because we know very well that instead of adopting a firm attitude, the United States decided to be an accomplice against the South African people. There have been no sanctions against the racist South African regime. There is no concern for human rights; there are no sanctions; there is no concern for the South African people. However, the United States is concerned about Nicaragua and Panama. It is conducting an opened interventist policy against those two countries and against the Frontline States.

[Reporter] Commander, the counterrevolution says there is no freedom of the press in Nicaragua. That is one of its arguments for suspending the dialogue.

[Ortega] That is a pretext. We have already said pretexts are beginning to appear. As soon as the funds were approved, the pretexts began to appear—what a coincidence. When there were no funds, there were no pretexts. It seems that we could begin to think they made all this effort simply to get the funds approved. This puts them to the test. We will see if they really made that peace effort to get the funds approved or because they are really interested in bringing peace to Nicaragua.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] [Answer indistinct]

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the Sapoa agreements, what is the situation of the five zones?

[Ortega] Today we discussed the zone situation. At the indirect meeting, the contra movement refused to finish discussing the zone issue. We only decided on [words indistinct] of the five zones. We did not decide on the

modus operandi in the zones. Thus, we hope to finish discussing that issue tomorrow. We hope to not end that meeting until a definite decision is reached concerning zone delimitation and modus operandi.

[Reporter] When will the government make a statement on the contra postponement of the meeting? When will you decide whether or not you will attend the meeting?

[Ortega] No, they are the ones who must [words indistinct] to come here to Managua.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Yes, but they are now discussing plans; they are [words indistinct] and evidently that is [words indistinct] them. We must agree on reasonable ways included in the agreements, but we cannot go beyond what has so far been achieved.

[Reporter] Mr President, is it possible that what you call the contras' stalling tactic is intended to seek an internal reorganization of forces and a reconstruction of the [words indistinct] interventionist [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] I believe they undoubtedly have [words indistinct]. In addition, the defeat [words indistinct] in the military as well as in the international political aspect is very clear. President Reagan's policy has been [words indistinct] and condemned by the International Court of Justice. Therefore, they have no other choice but to go to Sapoa and agree with the peace agreements. However, now that they have funding, the administration has not yet decided to recognize the right of the Nicaraguan revolution [words indistinct]. Thus, we are facing these situations that endanger the Sapoa agreements.

[Reporter] What do you expect from the national dialogue meeting tomorrow with the political parties?

[Ortega] Well, we expect that the political parties will continue working in a constructive manner to strengthen a national patriotic front that will allow us to achieve peace, because peace has not been achieved in Nicaragua. Nicaraguans continue to be killed every day. We also expect they will be able to act with realism, [in view] of the country's various problems, particularly the economic problems.

[Reporter] Mr President, what should the contras' status be in the zones where they will be located? Should they be armed or unarmed? [passage indistinct]

[Ortega] The agreement is very clear. Within 15 days they will go to the zones, they will gather in the zones with their weapons. However, the next time period has to be agreed upon. This could be from 15 to 60 days maximum, which is the length of the cease-fire, to conclude the entire cease-fire process. The next step after the contras have gathered in the aforementioned zones is to have those who want to return to peaceful life, to political life in the country or to work if they wish, to do so. Those who wish to work in the countryside may do so; they will have the opportunity to work the land, they will have suitable conditions to work the land. Logically, at that point they will have to be disarmed.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Well, I believe any contact [words indistinct] among friendly nations such as Mozambique that may persuade the United States that it is indeed possible to coexist with a revolutionary regime, as is the case of Mozambique. The United States coexists with a revolutionary regime like Mozambique. President Reagan has adopted a more realistic policy with the Frontline States. Nevertheless, it has been a policy [words indistinct] because there has been some rapprochement, but on the other hand, [the United States] continues to pressure and support [words indistinct] the counterrevolutionary groups that launch [their attacks] on the Frontline States from South Africa. The United States continues its unconditional policy in support of the South African regime. Therefore, we cannot speak about a truly responsible attitude by the United States in its relations with African countries.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] What the United States has to do is recognize that Frontline States like Mozambique, or countries like Nicaragua or Panama, are sovereign and independent nations. Therefore, the United States should not be meddling and deciding what kind of regime [should exist] in each country because we have not been meddling in the United States to discuss what kind of regime should exist in the United States after the upcoming elections. We have not been meddling in [U.S.] affairs either for the Democrats or for the Republicans. I believe that is the U.S. people's decision. However, the United States wants to act as masters of the universe and impose regimes on developing countries, particularly on Latin American and Caribbean countries.

[Words indistinct] in Nicaragua. Panama is being directly threatened by the interventionist policy of the U.S. Government and the U.S. (?Congress).

[Reporter] Mr President, concerning the Sapoa agreements: Today the media have published reports hinting that those agreements resulted from, or were achieved to a large extent, due to the refusal by the U.S. (?Congress) to approve funds. What has been the true role of...

[Ortega, interrupting] I believe the role has been constructive. Our position has been very clear. Every time the U.S. Congress has made a proposal, regardless of how positive it may seem, and we understand that this recently approved aid could be the best—we should say that this aid could be the least harmful. [sentence as heard]

Our position has been very clear concerning [words indistinct] Congressmen Jim Wright and the Democratic congressmen who are against any interventionist policy in Nicaragua. We would like to tell them: Sirs, the Nicaraguan Government cannot approve any kind of U.S. Government aid for the counterrevolutionary groups because this would delay [compliance] with international legal order. Thus, we would be admitting that such a policy is legitimate. If today we praise any kind of aid regardless of how positive it may seem, then what Congress did yesterday would be good, and thus what Congress may do tomorrow would also be good. The ICJ clearly ruled that the U.S. Government actions are illegal, outside the international legal order. The U.S. Government has been condemned, and it has been told it must immediately cease all its support of the mercenary forces.

We must work so international legal order can be respected. We are not interested in receiving any funds the way the U.S. Government has said it would deliver them, because those funds [words indistinct] have not been approved by the U.S. Government for the Nicaraguan state [words indistinct]. This is clear. [Passage indistinct] It has been clearly stated in the law that was approved that Nicaragua has been completely (?excluded from receiving) those funds.

This means we are dealing with an interventionist policy without much disposition [words indistinct] and reality. We cannot laud such a type of aid. May I repeat? All that the various groups can do now is to work (?against) this aid, so the United States can hold a direct dialogue with Nicaragua.

[Words indistinct] multilateral dialogue. Now it speaks of a multilateral dialogue. This is a maneuver. We are not a U.S. colony. (?We want) direct bilateral relations between the United States and Nicaragua. There are problems between the United States and Nicaragua that must be settled bilaterally. [passage indistinct]

[Reporter] You have pointed out that the U.S. Congress [words indistinct].

[Ortega] President Reagan [words indistinct] must comply with it because he has said several times, and his representatives have repeated on several occasions, that the day Nicaragua sat down to talk with the contras and reached an agreement with them, the United States would sit down and talk with the Nicaraguan Government. The time has arrived. We have not only sat down and talked with the contras, we have reached an agreement with them. Yet the U.S. Government has not taken a single step to talk directly with Nicaragua and seek a solution for bilateral problems.

This is why we oppose the U.S. (?position). President Reagan, Abrams, and Shultz have adopted a different position. They are all liars in the eyes of international opinion and of the U.S. people themselves.

Calero: Government Violated Sapoa Agreement
PA042027 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1852 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Sapoa, Nicaragua, 4 Apr (DPA)—Sapoa, the Nicaraguan border post located 140 km south of Managua and 5 km from the Costa Rican border, is being readied for the meeting of the "special commissions" of the contras and the Nicaraguan Government. The meeting is scheduled to resume tomorrow. At that time the two parties will discuss the areas where the contras will settle.

Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] leader Adolfo Calero told Managua Radio Noticias, a private radio station, that the Sapoa meeting to determine the areas where the rebel forces will settle is necessary for the "cease-fire" talks, which are scheduled to continue in Managua on 12 April.

Calero said the Sandinist government is not abiding by the Sapoa agreement signed on 23 March, which says there must be total freedom of the press and guarantees for the Nicaraguan people. According to Calero, the Nicaraguan Government violated the agreement when it launched bombing operations in the mountainous areas of the departments of Nueva Segovia and Jinotega and failed to release the 100 prisoners whose names appeared on a list presented by the RN. The Nicaraguan Government last week only released 4 of the 100 prisoners.

Calero also said the RN has proposed to Daniel Ortega's government the postponement of the meeting in Managua. The meeting was previously scheduled to be held on 6 April, but the RN has requested that it be postponed until 12 April, when the details regarding the areas where the contras will settle and the mechanisms to guarantee their survival have been agreed upon.

Daniel Ortega's government rejected the postponement, Calero said. The anti-Sandinist leader made no mention of the aid for the contras approved last week by the U.S. Congress, but did accuse the Nicaraguan Government of not giving LA PRENSA the paper it needs to print its newspaper. Calero said that this is very important for the RN's interests.

Calero said that BARRICADA and EL NUEVO DIARIO have enough paper. BARRICADA and EL NUEVO DIARIO are progovernment papers, and they are at an advantage over LA PRENSA.

Rafael Solis, the Nicaraguan Government's representative on the special commission, said that the Managua regime "is playing fair" and that it has abided by the Sapoa agreements. Solis said the "contras" presented their list with the names of prisoners during the days when the Nicaraguan Assembly was debating the amnesty law and that there was no agreement to the effect that the first 100 prisoners to benefit from the law would be the ones specified in the RN's list.

Calero asked that the Nicaraguan Government "not keep them locked up in their hotel in Managua" while the 12 April negotiations are underway. Calero said that if they do, they would be violating the Sapoa agreements, which state that all Nicaraguans have guarantees and freedoms. Government representative Rafael Solis did not comment on this issue.

The "special commissions" will broach matters like areas where the rebel forces will settle, their size, and their modus operandi. These are issues that are pending following the 29 March meeting in Sapoa.

Restructuring of Government Announced

PA050455 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Communique issued by the Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic in Managua on 4 April]

[Text] The Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency reports to the people of Nicaragua the following changes in the government of the Republic:

1. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce is created. Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz is to head this ministry. The Ministries of Industry, Foreign Trade, and Interior Trade are abolished. Guerrilla Commander Ramon Cabrales and Comrades Gilberto Guzman, (James Zablah), and Orlando Solorzano are appointed as vice ministers.

2. The Ministry of Construction and Transportation is created. Guerrilla Commander Mauricio Valenzuela is to head this ministry. The Ministries of Construction, Transportation, and Housing and Human Services are abolished. Mario Flores and (Oscar Melendez Rojas) are appointed as vice ministers.

3. Integrated into a new Ministry of Education are the duties performed by the former Education Ministry; the National Council of Higher Education, CENES; the Ministry of Culture; and the National Training System [Sistema Nacional de Capacitacion—SINACAP]. Father Fernando Cardenal is to head this new ministry. Joaquin Solis Piura and Julian Corrales are appointed as vice ministers.

In addition, the following appointments are made:

4. Father Ernesto Cardenal is named president of the National Council of Culture.

5. Alejandro Martinez Cuenca is named minister of the Secretariat of Planning and Budget.

6. Comrade Carlos Carrion Cruz is named mayor of Managua and delegate of the president of the Republic for the 3d Region.

7. (Moises Nassan) is named president of the Simon Bolivar Engineering University.

8. Guerrilla Commander William Ramirez is named general director of the National Enterprise for Staple Foods, ENABAS.

9. Comrade Emilio Baltodano Cantarero is named deputy minister of the Ministry of Agricultural-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform, MIDINDRA.

10. Miguel Ernesto Vigil is named president of the National Cotton Commission.

Managua, 4 Apri 1988

For a worthy peace. Free Fatherland or death.

Mozambican President Arrives in Managua

PA041747 [Editorial Report] Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 1659 GMT on 4 April broadcasts a 5-minute report from Managua's Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport on the arrival of Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano. The announcer notes that President Daniel Ortega has greeted the visiting chief of state and describes the various activities that follow at the airport, including a 21-gun salute in honor of Chissano.

Panama

Government, UNADE To Attend National Dialogue

PA041400 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1310 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Communique issued by the Presidential Press Office in Panama City on 4 April]

[Text] In their messages and communiques to the country, Manuel Solis Palma, head of the Panamanian state, and the UNADE [National Democratic Union] have reiterated to the Panamanian people that they are interested in finding a solution to the current political crisis through an honest, broad dialogue among all the nation's groups. This dialogue must be held without preconditions or pressure.

A dialogue called by the People's Unity Front begins this morning at the Atlapa Convention Center. All the political parties and groups that represent Panamanian society, including the Catholic Church, opposition parties, and the UNADE, have been invited. The executive branch and the UNADE parties will participate in the dialogue, as will the Panama Defense Forces, who have chosen the executive branch as their representative.

The executive branch and the UNADE parties wish to clarify to the people that they have not received an invitation or note from the Episcopal Conference or the

Panamanian archbishop to participate in a national dialogue. In a recent news conference held by the bishops, Msgr Oscar Brown told the press that the parties supporting the government would probably be allowed to participate in the dialogue. The bishops also ignored important sectors of the nation such as the workers, government employees, and others.

The executive branch and the UNADE parties reiterate to the Panamanians and the world that they are determined to find a solution to the current problems through a dialogue, no matter which group proposes or begins the talks. Likewise, they are willing to participate, without preconditions, in all impartial efforts made in this regard.

Panama City, 4 April 1988

Government Delegates Named

PA041403 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1309 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Letter to People's Unity Front (FUP) Director Hector Aleman from Presidency Minister Nander Pitty; date not given]

[Text] Mr Hector Aleman, People's Unity Front, Panama City

Dear Mr Aleman:

I hereby inform you that Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, has designated Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni and Housing Minister Ricardo Bermudez to represent the government at the national dialogue called by the FUP and the labor organizations that comprise it.

The chief of state and his government thus expressly state their recognition of the FUP's efforts to resolve the problems Panamanian society is facing, through dialogue and the participation of all groups and organizations of goodwill.

I take advantage of the occasion to reiterate assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

[Signed] Nander A. Pitti Velazquez

Minister of the Presidency

National Dialogue Begins

PA042110 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1805 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Report by Eduardo Martinez]

[Excerpts] The first formal national dialogue between different sectors to seek a solution to Panama's political, social, and economic crisis started at the Atlapa Convention Center, organized by the Peoples' Unity Front [FUP].

Authorized spokesmen meeting at Atlapa told Radio Nacional that FUP formally invited 17 groups involved in the Panamanian situation, and 11 responded.

This dialogue, which is the first serious attempt to find a Panamanian solution through Panamanian personalities and methods, has begun without preconditions or an agenda, because the agenda will emerge from the deliberations between the various groups attending this dialogue.

This first session of national dialogue was attended by representatives of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, the majority group within the National Democratic Union alliance; the Labor Party; the Revolutionary Panamenist Party; a Republican Party faction; presidential representatives; the Defense Forces; the People's Party; the Democratic Party of the Workers; the Nationalist People's Party; the Revolutionary Party of the Workers; and the organizers—FUP. [passage omitted]

The first session of national dialogue was not attended by representives of the Civic Crusade, opposition parties, or the Catholic Church, despite having been formally invitated to attend.

Hector Aleman, coordinator of FUP—an organization composed of people's organizations—when inaugurating the national dialogue, said:

[Begin recording] The Republic of Panama is involved in a crisis that endangers the historic process that should end with the perfection of the modern national state—of which compliance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties is a basic condition. This crisis has two main branches:

1. Politics, which is represented by two aspects:

a. The struggle for political power by Panamanian society;

b. U.S. interests in Panama in relation to its international policy.

2. Economics, which is divided into three aspects:

a. A national economy nearly totally dependent and subordinated to the United States;

b. A worldwide economic crisis, in which the underdeveloped countries are subsidizing the economies of the highly industrialized countries;

c. A foreign debt that prevents the necessary investments for national development.

Since June 1987, Panamanian society has experimented an upsurge in the struggle for political power that has polarized the country into two sides that are increasingly moving away from each other and from any type of understanding. The use of economic factors as political instruments brought economic development to a complete halt.

In February 1988, the U.S. Government began to participate directly in the struggle for political power and put into practice economic and military measures, worsening the country's situation even more.

FUP considers an imperative and unpostponable dialogue with the waging factions as the only way of reaching a national agreement that may prevent the total breakup of Panamanian society and its ominous consequences.

With this in mind, FUP has called on all parties, organizations, and the country's groups to this dialogue, a dialogue that may bring forth a national agreement between all Panamanians, aware of the historical moment and the responsibility we have for the country's present and future. We invite all organizations to give up positions, to avoid irreconcilable confrontations that in turn may be used as justification for an armed intervention in our country.

Using these parameters, the people's movement, organized under FUP, formally invited all sectors that have been taking part in the polemic that has worsened in our country over these last few months. We have formally invited all these sectors, and it pleases us to have here with us 11 of the 17 sectors that we formally invitated. It is important to note that only three of these sectors that have been invited have replied by letter that they will not participate in the dialogue. Nonetheless, another three important sectors, for different reasons, are not talking, and during the course of the day we are going to do our best to get them to participate. [end recording]

Crusade: Strike To Continue 'Indefinitely'

PA041854 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 4 Apr 88 pp 8, B-3

[Report on communique issued by the National Civic Crusade in Panama City on 2 April]

[Text] Yesterday the opposition confirmed through its various labor unions that the strike called for by the National Civic Crusade will continue indefinitely, and it also issued a statement regarding the crisis the country has faced for the past 10 months. Because of its importance, this paper has published the document in full:

Communique:

In response to rumors spread by government sectors, the National Civic Crusade announces the following:

1. That the general sit-down strike called by the National Civic Crusade and supported by all the sectors that comprise it will continue indefinitely.

2. That all the sectors that comprise and support the National Civic Crusade have expressly stated the desire to follow its organization's general outlines and to abide by its general mandates in order to rescue our nation as soon as possible from the disaster in which it has been submerged by sectors attempting to remain in power with the sole support of arms.

3. The National Civic Crusade hereby publicly acknowledges the noble, brave, and patriotic Panamanian people's enormous personal and economic sacrifices during the course of this general strike, which has demonstrated to the entire world the unyielding determination by all sectors representing national life to live in a Panama where decency and morality will prevail in all our republican institutions, within a climate of justice, liberty, and democracy.

4. We urge the sectors that have not joined this great struggle for liberation to join without delay, because our country's future is at stake, and we will only be able to save it if we end the dictatorial and illegitimate regime headed by Manuel Antonio Noriega.

National Civic Crusade

Issued in Panama City on 2 April 1988

Alberto Boyd

Coordinator

CONEP Continues Support

PA042325 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 4 Apr 88 p B-3

[Communique issued by the Panamanian National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP) in Panama City on 2 April]

[Text] As the leader of national public opinion, CONEP wishes to publicly state the following:

1. CONEP, an organization comprised of all of Panama's business sectors, unanimously decided to support the sit-down strike called by the National Civic Crusade on 21 March 1988.

2. Following 2 weeks of the most complete national paralysis ever recorded in the annals of the Panamanian people's nationalist and democratic struggle, General Manuel Antonio Noriega prefers to hand over the country to non-nationalist interests and has advocated the abolition of the most fundamental principles of democratic life and the destruction of free enterprise. In an irresponsible manner, which is an act of treason against the loftiest interests of the fatherland, he refuses to resolve the crisis caused by his usurpation of political power.

3. The political crisis keeps the country submerged in the most serious economic depression in the nation's history, making it impossible to even think of economic revival under current circumstances.

4. Due to the serious national crisis, an unbreakable union has been forged among the country's labor and business forces. This union has the firm purpose of bearing the mutual sacrifice that the serious national situation demands.

CONEP reiterates:

1. The sit-down strike continues unchanged. CONEP reaffirms its support for this heroic action to return to a path of decency and morality in a climate of liberty, justice, and democracy. These elements are the necessary preconditions to ensure the political and economic health of our beloved fatherland.

2. It recognizes the personal and economic sacrifice by all sectors of Panama's private enterprise and its workers for the sake of the country's democratization.

3. We urge all of the country's businessmen, together with their employees, to remain united in their support of this general strike. This strike is the pressure needed to achieve a real and effective solution to the problems affecting the people of Panama, which are caused by Gen Noriega's stubborn and personalistic stance of continuing to usurp public power to the detriment of the Panamanian nation.

Panama City, 2 April 1988

Alberto Boyd, President

'Many' Youths Join 'Dignity' Battalions

PA041422 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 4 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] Los Andes No 2 community youths gathered at their neighborhood playground to sign up as members of the "Dignity" battalion to participate in activities that will contribute to the defense of the principles of sovereignty and dignity whenever the homeland is attacked for foreign interventionist reasons.

The youths have already started the training exercises to get them into the physical shape necessary to struggle actively for sovereignty and dignity.

Approximately 50 youths have signed up as members of the youth group that will defend the Panamanian position in light of an aggression. Many other youths, willing to give all their energy for the homeland, have been lined up in Tocumen, Chorrillo, and Chiriqui.

High-ranking San Miguelito community leader Virgilio Perinan is among the organizers of the youth group. Perinan raised his voice to encourage the youths to join the "Dignity" battalion for the defense of Panamanian sovereignty.

Enthusiasm is growing among the youths and their parents, who are strongly supporting this action.

Solis Palma Rejects 'U.S. Provocations'

PA041939 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1844 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 4 Apr (DPA)—This morning Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma said "Panama will not fall for U.S. provocations."

Solis Palma added: "There is considerable military mobilization in the Panama Canal Zone, and 1,300 more soldiers are to arrive. However, we will not give way to U.S. pretexts to attack Panama."

The president reiterated that "Panama is a sovereign country, and we will defend Panama, and the Defense Forces will only act in legitimate defense." Solis Palma, who met last night with his cabinet to study the latest events, also reiterated: "I deny there were efforts to kidnap the U.S. ambassador."

Banks today disobeyed government orders to open their doors for the third time in the past few weeks. Today the Panamanian Government sent a complaint to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar over the "mobilization of U.S. troops in Panamanian territory."

'Leaders' Vow To Fight U.S. 'Aggressors'

PA042331 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 4 Apr 88 pp 3, 11

[Statement issued by the Union of Natural Leaders (Unionde Dirigentes Naturales) in Panama City on 30 March; passages in uppercase as published]

[Text] At a time when some Latin American governments are calling for respect for the Constitution as personified by Eric Arturo Delvalle, that individual is crying out for U.S. military intervention in Panama, demonstrating the true nature of the problem: the oligarchy wants to hand over our country to the United States of America.

The traditional usurpers of economic power, grouped in 40 families linked together through multiple combinations of business concerns, have finally embarked upon a class struggle which, given its characteristics, leads one to foresee a violent outcome in which the Panamanian people, represented by the masses, will be willing to shed their last drop of blood to prevent the Republic of Panama from becoming the 51st star in the U.S. flag.

This nation has been suffering from U.S. interference for more than a century; the one affliction it lacks is fear of imperialism.

That is why we shall respond appropriately to each bullet fired by the aggressor, and our corpses will become trenches of heroism and sovereignty.

THEY [the Americans] MIGHT ELIMINATE NORIEGA—AFTER ALL, HE IS JUST ANOTHER MORTAL—BUT THEY WILL COME TO REALIZE THAT EVERY PATRIOT IS ONE MORE NORIEGA, and if they eventually manage to defeat us, we solemnly swear on the altar of the fatherland that we will leave nothing standing for the invading scavengers.

The traitors, led by Delvalle, Lewis Galindo, Sosa, and Blandon, have unscrupulously called for the invasion of a nation and the murder of a leader, and we warn that if this comes to pass, the hand of THE PEOPLE'S JUSTICE will reach each and every one of them, and it will end their lives and the lives of all their descendants in whose veins run the blood of the traitors.

We believe in a serious, nationalistic dialogue to help the people; not for a disgraceful grab for power.

Let not our enemies doubt for one instant our resolve to fight, for we are convinced that our cause is just and, therefore, the UNION OF NATURAL LEADERS, as an element of the people, is prepared, along with the people and their Defense Forces, to face the aggressors with all available means, knowing that although the Yankee army will leave our streets and mountains covered in blood, it will also ship home the corpses of American youths, who are greatly needed for the cultural and scientific progress of that noble people.

Many mothers, wives, and sweethearts in America will shed tears over the sacrifice of those youths, as will Panamanian mothers, except the latter will become wild animals in the defense of their sons and the fatherland.

Think things over carefully. GET YOUR HANDS OFF OF PANAMA. Allow true Panamanians to decide their country's future and you will see that it is never too late to act fairly.

EVERY PATRIOT IS ONE MORE NORIEGA. THE DIE IS CAST—NOT ONE STEP BACKWARDS.

Jimmy Aleman, Secretary for International Affairs

Ramon Ashby, President

Group Publishes 'Wanted' Poster of 'Traitors'

PA050055 [Editorial Report] Panama City CRITICA in Spanish on 31 March carries on page 7 a full-page "wanted" poster sponsored by the Mateo Iturralde Commando. It shows photographs of 10 opposition leaders under the heading: "Panamanians: Know Who the Turncoats Are." Shown are President Eric Arturo Delvalle; Gabriel Lewis Galindo, former ambassador to the United States; Jose I. Blandon, former Panamanian consul in the United States; Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party; Juan Sosa, Panamanian ambassador to the United States; Alberto Garcia de Paredes, Panama's consul in New York; and Civic Crusade leaders Aurelio Barria, Roberto Brenes, Eduardo Vallarino, and Alberto Boyd.

The text under the pictures reads: "They are wanted because they are: traitors, money-grubbers, turncoats, Gringo puppets, profit seekers, and for wanting Panama to become another star in the U.S. flag." On the bottom of the page, in large letters, is: "I do not sell my fatherland. Mateo Iturralde" [early Panamanian patriot]

Industrialists Rap Quick Reopening of Banks

PA041727 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 4 Apr 88 pp A-1, A-7

[Communique issued by the Board of Directors of the Association of Panamanian Industrialists (SIP) in Panama City on 2 April]

[Text] Faced by the Banking and Financial Crisis [subhead]

In view of the recent announcement by the National Banking Commission on the possibility of reopening official and private banks during the next few days with restrictions and conditions, which, in our judgment, are very dangerous to the security of the depositors' funds, the survival of industrial, business, and service enterprises, and banking itself, SIP's board of directors wishes to warn the authorities and the public generally on the following points:

1. The current financial crisis that our country is undergoing and that is keeping our banking system closed has been worsened by the government's inability to continue financing its operational deficit using National Bank overdrafts. The freeing of funds overseas has not been a determinant factor, because this has only confirmed the government's inability to face its excessive spending, especially its payroll of over 70 million balboas each month and the repayment of principal and interest on the public debt.

2. The National Bank's inability to ensure the effective operation of the clearinghouse has worsened because of the climate of political instability and the lack of confidence, both internationally and locally—factors that are essential for the proper working of any banking system.

3. The restrictions established under agreement No 8-88 of the National Banking Commission over the use of funds in current accounts does not allow the normal working of industries, because we are unable to face even minimum operational requirements, such as payrolls and the purchase of raw materials and basic supplies in the local market and primarily in the international market. Similarly, the restrictions do not allow us to recover our accounts receivable or to pay our creditors, because we are all subjected to the same restrictions.

In addition, the restrictions do not take into account checks issued in good faith against our deposits between the time the banks were closed to the time the restritive measures were put into effect, creating countless checks that will be returned, despite having the necessary funds to cover them.

4. The arbitrary freezing of hundreds of thousands of savings accounts represents a plundering, especially in the case of needy people who are prevented from making use of the lifetime product of their work and sacrifices at this time of crisis.

5. The measures adopted by the National Banking Commission represent a dangerous and unjust system of priorities in favor of the National Treasury, since its funds would be the only ones unaffected. This implies that the capital of our enterprises would be rapidly depleted through the transference to the government of the few resources available. This makes evident that the true intention of Agreement No 7-88 of 22 March 1988 is to turn the capital of all Panamanians into a new and ephemeral financial source to cover the government's fiscal deficit and, especially, military expenditures.

This situation has been worsened by Agreement No 9-88, which is an attempt to transfer the freezing of National Bank of Panama deposits to private commercial banks in the country.

The proposed restrictions guarantee neither effective compensation mechanisms nor the reopening of the official banks.

6. In conclusion, the announced restrictions, far from contributing to alleviating the current situation, will contribute to aggravating economic stagnation. This will have destructive effects worse than those being endured now that the banks remain closed, because the banks will not be contributing to the reactivation of economic activities or taking into consideration the credit commitments most clients have with their banks. All this requires a moratorium and a reprogramming of private debts. This is why we reject these measures as destructive and suicidal for all, including the banks.

We agree with what the National Banking Association stated in its communique of Sunday, 27 March 1988. We are of the opinion that the banks must not renew their operations until there is the necessary political solution, a fundamental point required to reestablish the necessary climate of trust that will allow the reactivation of both the financial sector and of all the sources that generate employment and economic growth.

Board of Directors

SIP

Panama City, 2 April 1988

Chamber of Commerce Decries Cabinet Decrees

PA050143 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 4 Apr 88 pp 8, B-3

[Statement issued by the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture, in Panama City on 3 April—passages in uppercase as published]

[Text] DECLARATION

The Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture has observed with great concern the issuance of cabinet decrees whereby, without consultation and as a form of revenge, import tariffs are altered to the detriment of important industrial sectors, to whom, through the TRADE UNION OF PANAMANIAN INDUSTRIALISTS, we express our support and solidarity.

THE PANAMANIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRIES, AND AGRICULTURE has always maintained a clear and well-defined policy regarding the country's rational industrialization, because it is:

—An important source of jobs; and

—A positive factor in achieving well-being, increased production, and wealth.

We would also like to express our disagreement with and our strongest protest of the unjust actions taken by the illegitimate executive branch, which are nothing more than:

—A clear reflection of their inappropriate actions;

—The reaffirmation of a lack of interest regarding the peace and happiness of Panamanians, in what is a devastating attack on important sources of jobs;

—The use of overbearing actions that try to silence the voices of the masses who are struggling to achieve goals that will create a government with JUSTICE, LIBERTY, AND DEMOCRACY; and

—An attack on the private sector, which is a new element of instability and uncertainty for private investments, which are the most effective ways to reactivate the country's economy.

Absurd measures such as those taken against the industrial sector reinforce our decision to continue struggling to overcome the chaos in which we are living.

Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture

Panama, 3 April 1988

Presidency Suspends Leave With Pay to Trainees

PA041555 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1207 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Communique from the Presidency of the Republic; date, place not given]

[Text] Based on Law 31 of 2 September 1977, which was revised by Law 20 of 30 December 1985, the Human Resources Education and Training Institute, IFARHU, is the entity responsible for directing the program for the professional betterment of public employees.

Ministries and institutions have the obligation to periodically provide a list of graduate school careers or special courses that could be taken to improve institutional and national development.

The law also establishes the granting of leave with pay to officials under the special professional betterment program.

Despite this and as a result of the current fiscal situation, the national government finds itself forced to temporarily suspend the leave-with-pay benefit enjoyed by public employees studying in the framework of the professional betterment program and to ask government entities not to initiate programs that do not have the approval of an intergovernment commission established by law.

This measure is temporary and should not be viewed as a decision to ignore the right of all public employees to a better education or the state's obligation to enhance the technical qualities of its human resources.

New Supreme Court Magistrates Sworn In

PA050510 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] This afternoon Isidro Vega and Jerry Wilson Navarro, new Supreme Court magistrates, were sworn in during a ceremony before President Manuel Solis Palma at the Palace of the Herons. Both were named Supreme Court magistrates by the Cabinet Council on 20 March. Vega and Wilson were appointed for 10-year terms.

Argentina

Caridi Denies 'Grumbling' Within Army

PY041515 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2050 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Text] Corrientes, 3 Apr (NA)—Army Chief of Staff General Jose Dante Caridi has stated that "there is no possibility" of a repetition of the acts of indiscipline within the Army that occurred in January 1988.

He said: "There is no grumbling [estado deliberativo] going on within the Army, and if there were, we would eradicate it immediately because that is not the way to run the institution."

Asked about graffiti that has appeared in the federal capital and greater Buenos Aires in favor of Rico, he stated that "they do not indicate problems within the Army" but are the work of "people who have joined this situation and have taken it as a private and personal matter."

He added that in view of this situation, "it is possible that there will be more graffiti and, unfortunately, more acts of violence, such as the bombings, which I deplore, regret, and condemn because this is not the way we Argentines express our complaints."

Caridi made these remarks during a conversation with the press at the end of a ceremony marking the 400th anniversary of the founding of the city of Corrientes. President Alfonsin also attended this ceremony as a special guest.

The Army chief of staff added that the crisis affecting Argentine society "adversely affects the Army as well as other sectors such as political parties, the unions, and businessmen, although in different ways."

He said: "Despite the shortage, we are overcoming the situation with the good will of all Army members."

Caridi denied the participation of Army personnel in the acts marking the 6th anniversary of the temporary recovery of the Malvinas Islands, during which the name of former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico was cheered with vivas.

"It is possible that some individuals who do not belong to the Army were wearing Army uniforms," he stated, but whether they shouted vivas or not at the mention of Aldo Rico's name is their business.

Bomb Threats 'Psychological Campaign' Increases

PY042359 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS Spanish 1450 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 April (NA)—The psychological campaign of false alarms—anonymous calls announcing the imminent explosion of bombs—has increased in the last few hours. New false alarms were recorded in several cities throughout the country. There were exceptions to the false alarms, however: two bombs destroyed the home and car of La Plata Justicialist Party leader Juan Carlos Palacios, and two explosive devices were deactivated in Salta and Rosario.

In Buenos Aires, police discreetly supervised some municipal primary schools, which were almost empty due to the teachers' strike, because "rumors" were circulating that bombs had been placed in them. The rumors were found to be groundless.

The police, nevertheless, decided to assign an officer to each school as an additional precaution.

Buenos Aires police checked on three other bomb threats in Jose Leon Suarez, Quilmes, and Mar del Plata. In the last two places police found fake bombs.

At 0745 today, Mitre train deposit officials received a call saying that a bomb would explode in 45 minutes at km 24 of the railroad line. Police went to the location but did not find anything.

In Mar del Plata, a municipal official called the police to inspect an explosive device at the doors of the municipal building on 455 Rivadavia Street.

Experts found a shoe box containing short sticks cut from a broom, simulating dynamite, connected with colored wires, a watch without mesh, and plastic bags with black powder.

The report from Quilmes says that a bag containing a TAM-5 grenade, seven TNT cakes, six plastic bags with black powder, and wires was found on a stretch on the shore of Santo Domingo stream. Police reported that the device was not activated to explode.

Another anonymous call interrupted the services of the San Martin train between the Retiro and Jose C. Paz stations. Authorities received a call saying that a bomb was placed in Hurlingam station. Between 0520 and 0925, trains only serviced the stretch between the Retiro and Caseros stations, the last stop before Hurlingam. Train services through Hurlingam resumed after police carefully inspected the rails in the area.

Several bomb warnings were received in Rosario, forcing police to conduct large and long search operations.

This morning, telephone calls warned about explosive devices in two telephone offices located on 2300 San Martin Street, southern Rosario, and Rioja Street near President Roca Street, respectively.

Police evacuated everybody from the premises in both cases, but did not find anything.

Regarding yesterday's explosive device found in the walkway of the shop with exists to Cordoba and Maipu Streets consisting of 500 grams of TNT, police said it was connected to a slow fuse to allow those placing the bomb to walk away without danger of injury.

Police said that the fuse did not work properly and went off after it was lighted. Had the bomb exploded, it would have caused a lot of damage to the shopping center on Cordoba, Maipu, and San Martin Streets, police said.

A package that had two wires sticking from it caused another false alarm. The package had been left in the premises of the 1500 Viraoso Street UCR Committee.

Bomb Threat Against Supreme Court Judge's Car

PY041604 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1525 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Apr (NA)— The anonymous telephone call warning that a bomb was about to explode in Supreme Court Judge Cesar Belluscio's car caused unrest in the Supreme Court at midday today. Police experts, however, quickly reported that this was another false alarm.

The caller warned that the bomb was inside the car parked in front of a building at 1200 Lavalle Street. The building had previously belonged to the Taxes General Directorate, but was recently purchased by the Justice Ministry, which plans to install some of its offices in the building located next to the Supreme Court Palace.

The police experts, who immediately inspected the car, reported that it was a false alarm, and no bomb was found.

Faction Opposing CPA Leadership Created

PY042032 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1537 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Apr (NA)—In an unprecedented move, last week Communist leaders and party members throughout the country decided to create a faction called "The Defenders of the 16th Congress" [Defensa del 16th Congreso] which overtly opposes the current leadership headed by Athos Fava and Patricio Echegaray.

In a press communique, "The Defenders of the 16th Congress" faction states that the Communist Party (PC) leaders "are engaged in an ultra-leftist movement which contradicts Marxism-Leninism, the demands of the working class, of the people, and of the PC rank and file."

According to Communist sources, this is the first serious crisis experienced by the PC—which many consider to be a result of the changes brought about by the 16th Congress held in November 1986—and it has resulted in an open clash at the national level, although some splinter demonstrations have already been staged in provinces, including Mendoza and Neuquen.

The communique states that the "16th Congress affirmed that the PC epitomizes the highest ideals of the organization and the fighting spirit of the working class, which is denied in theory and in practice by the acts of the current leaders, who have transformed" this political party "into an elite group divorced from the needs of the masses."

The communique points out: "This is witnessed by the indiscriminate punishment inflicted on numerous party members and the expulsion of others from active militancy, while the party organizations and the mass movements are overlooked."

The communique adds that the "16th Congress has proposed the unity of the working class in a single CGT [General Confederation of Labor] and in a single union per industry type, as well as the independence of the central union from political activity, from employers, and from the state. This proposal has also been distorted by the current leadership which is implementing a provocative and divisionist policy among the workers."

The communique also points out that "the crisis in which the party has been immersed should be reversed immediately, and to do that it is necessary to participate in the great struggle being waged by the labor classes and the people for democracy, for better wages, and for peace and solidarity with Nicaragua and El Salvador."

The communique concludes by saying that "this struggle is part of the formation of the front for social and national liberation which is a necessary instrument to conduct the revolutionary changes our country demands."

Israeli Minister Visits; Brings Peres Message

TA050905 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Today Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal will inaugurate an Israeli-made geothermal power plant in Argentina. The plant produces energy using warm water which spouts from the ground.

Yesterday Minister Shahal met with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, to whom he relayed a message from Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Bolivia

Minister To Visit Brazil To Set Sarney Visit

PY041341 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1738 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Text] La Paz, 3 Apr (EFE)—Bolivian Transport Minister Andres Petricevic will leave tomorrow for Brazil to prepare for the meeting Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro will hold with his Brazilian counterpart, Jose Sarney, in May, in Bolivia.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal has stated that Petricevic will review with his Brazilian counterpart the details related to railroad, river, and air transport projects that are included on the agenda for the meeting between the two presidents.

Bedregal stated that Sarney's visit to Bolivia is expected to be an event that will help realize the appropriate projects once the appropriate documents are signed.

The Bolivian transport minister will take the opportunity of his visit to Brazil to attend the first meeting of the Southern Cone countries to study the navigability of the Parana and Paraguay Rivers.

Petricevic's meeting, scheduled to take place between 4 and 8 April in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, will also be attended by the transport ministers of Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay.

The government delegations that will meet in Brazil will study technical aspects, port construction, the regularization of the course of the two rivers and their tributaries, migration, customs, and free transit: all aspects that will allow free access to the Atlantic Ocean through these means.

Brazil

Joint Atmospheric Research With USSR Begins

PY041525 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Apr 88 p 8

[By Eustaquio de Freitas]

[Excerpts] Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo State—The scientific and technological cooperation program between the Space Research Institute (INPE) and the Moscow Science Institute is beginning to take shape this week. Scientists from several universities in Brazil and the Soviet Union are participating. For the first time, the two countries will be studying an anomaly in the atmosphere over the South Atlantic, a hole in the magnetic belt surrounding the earth. This belt deflects radio waves emitted by antennas located in planes or on the earth's surface. [passage omitted]

This is the first time Soviet researchers have expressed an interest in studying this phenomenon on site. Until now they have been studying the phenomenon through information collected by various Soviet satellites. According to Jose Marques da Costa, head of the Geophysics and Aeronomy Department at INPE, the program of cooperation with the Soviets will be a broad one. This cooperation began 10 days ago when a ground station in Cachoeira Paulista, Sao Paulo State, received the first radio signals sent to Brazil by the Soviet satellite Cosmos 1809, which was placed in orbit 2 years ago. The satellite is probing the near-earth space occupied by electrically charged particles. In its next stage, the program will be divided into 18 basic projects, which in turn might be broken down into other theoretical, experimental, or analytical studies. This joint program has been coordinated during 16 days of meetings between three Soviet scientists and INPE researchers. Two Russians, Sergei Pulinets and Vladimir Bednajevski [names as published], are staff members at the Radio Propagation and Ionospheric Geomagnetism Institute. The other Russian is Valentine Wechitachenko [name as published] from the Soviet Geophysics Committee.

Aeronautics Minister on Building F-16's

PY041827 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Apr 88 p A4

[By Dalton Moreira from Brasilia]

[Excerpts] Yesterday Aeronautics Minister Brigadier Octavio Julio Moreira Lima told FOLHA that he has received an invitation from the U.S. aeronautics company General Dynamics for the Brazilian Aeronautics Company (EMBRAER) to participate in a project to manufacture F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter planes in Brazil within the next 5 years. The F-16 fighter planes are currently being used by the United States Air Force (USAF).

Brigadier Moreira Lima, who was in the United States between 21 and 27 March at the invitation of the USAF, said that the manufacture of the F-16 by EMBRAER will be undertaken in two stages: 1) Initially, EMBRAER would manufacture for General Dynamics composite material for the wings and fuselage, as well as internal components (avionics) for the plane; and 2) at that point technology for the F-16 manufacture in Brazil will begin to be transferred. [Passage omitted]

Asked why the proposal for manufacturing the F-16 in Brazil will take 5 years to be implemented, Minister Moreira Lima replied that EMBRAER is currently involved in the Italian-Brazilian project for the construction of the AMX subsonic fighter plane. The minister said: "EMBRAER has to deliver 79 units to the Brazilian Air Force, so all the engineers and technical teams are working on the AMX project. In 2 years we will have time to think about a different aircraft."

Chile

Poll: Majority Fear Consequences of No Vote

PY050306 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Most Chileans do not feel represented by any political party. This is something we have always known, but it has not been confirmed by an opinion poll conducted by Gallup Chile.

The poll, conducted from 15 February to 15 March, shows that 80.9 percent of the people do not feel they are represented by any of the political parties that [words indistinct].

The poll was conducted with 6,332,053 [figure as heard] participants who are over 18 years old and who reside in urban areas throughout the country.

Asked whether they thought the plebiscite will be clean, 46.1 percent said yes, while only 29.2 percent said it would be a fraud.

Asked about the consequences a no vote victory would bring, 18.3 percent said a no vote victory would bring general instability to the country, 17 percent said it would bring disorder, and 15.7 percent said personal security would decrease. By adding these percentages, we may conclude that 51 percent of Chileans fear that a no vote victory will have bad consequences.

The Gallup poll also shows that a high percentage of Chileans believe it would be better if the yes vote won. The question was: Irrespective of how you are going to vote in the plebiscite, do you think it will be better for Chile if the yes vote wins or if the no vote wins? The answers were: 47.2 percent favored the yes vote, while 29.4 percent favored the no. A total of 23.4 percent were either undecided or did not answer.

The poll also shows that 49.2 percent of those surveyed said they are not interested at all in politics. The question was: How interested are you in politics in general: very interested, somewhat interested, or not interested at all? The answers were: 11.2 percent, very interested; 32.8 somewhat interested; and 49.2 percent, not interested whatsoever.

Colombia

Gunmen Kill 38, Wound 14 at Easter Dance

PA041912 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1732 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] At a place known as La Mejor Esquina near Buenavista, Cordoba, 10 unidentified individuals violently disrupted a dance last night, killing 38 people and seriously wounding 14 others.

The incident occurred in La Mejor Esquina, Buenavista municipality, Cordoba Department. At 2200, while the music played and the townspeople celebrated Easter in the municipal plaza, approximately 15 hooded men bearing small- and medium-caliber weapons began shooting indiscriminately at the dancing peasants.

According to local residents, the number of dead could surpass 30 [number as heard]. Some of the wounded have been transferred to Planeta Rica and Monteria.

The perpetrators of the massacre have not yet been identified.

Peru

Inflation Sets Record; Economic Policy Rapped

PY041832 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2202 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Text] Lima, 3 Apr (EFE)—The highest monthly inflation rate ever spells "the failure" of the economic model implemented by President Alan Garcia, political opponents and economic experts have asserted.

The government has recognized that at 22.6 percent, Peru has accumulated the highest monthly inflation rate in the nation's history. This rate is almost twice the 11.8-percent inflation in January.

Study centers and independent economists have forecast that, should the current price escalation continue, inflation may hit the 500-percent mark this year, and it will certainly exceed 300 percent.

In the past 12 months, inflation increased 180 percent, a 12-month increase second only to the 160 percent registered from June 1985 to June 1986.

In the opinion of economists, March's record inflation rate underscored the critical situation in Peru and the need for the government to change its economic policy. All the political opposition agrees on this point.

Leftist Senator Genardo Ledesma has said the economic model has entered a "very harmful" stage. Rightist politician Javier Diaz Orihuela has noted that the country has entered "an unstoppable hyperinflationary process," adding that unless the current economic policy is changed, Peru "will be drained of its economic lifeblood." One of the adjustments called for by both the congressional left and right is the reduction of public expenditures so as to cut the fiscal deficit, which is projected to reach $2.5 billion, equivalent to nearly 13 percent of the GDP or to a year's export earnings.

The Alan Garcia government is drawing much criticism for printing money, mainly in order to subsidize the difference between the exchange rate for imports and the exchange rate for exports. The sum required for this is about $300 million, which is equivalent to 1.5 percent of the GDP.

Another point that has come under criticism is the lack of liquidity the government is facing because of a shortage in reserves.

Rightist Senator Felipe Osterling has proposed Peru's resumption of relations with the international financial system as an urgent measure.

Peru was sidetracked from the international financial system by President Garcia's policy of limiting payments on the country's nearly $15-billion debt to 10 percent of export earnings.

Meanwhile, the country's productive apparatus continues to move sluggishly 9 months after President Garcia announced the nationalization of private banks—a process not yet complete.

A political agreement and a climate of confidence in government relations with the public sector are considered fundamental to the recovery of domestic investments.

Through much publicity, the government prepared the public for a more than 20-percent inflation in March and gave assurance that the inflation rate would be reduced to 10 percent in April and to 8 percent in May.

Sandro Mariategui, former economy minister of the previous center-right government, has asserted it would be impossible to reduce inflation by half. He said, "the most the government can do is to keep it from moving higher."

President Garcia To Leave for Europe 11 April

PY050332 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Today Foreign Minister Allan Wagner Tizon said President Alan G. cia will leave for Europe on 11 April, his first trip abroad this year.

Minister Wagner said that President Garcia's first activity will be to deliver a speech at the European Parliament.

[Begin Wagner recording] A program has been established for this trip, and it will be announced at the appropriate time. The most important aspect of President Garcia's trip will be the speech he is going to deliver at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. This is a very important event because in the history of the European Parliament only two Latin American presidents have been invited to speak at that important European forum. President Garcia will be the third. This reveals the interest that exists, in political circles and in Europe in general, in the Peruvian president. The president will then visit the EEC, Belgium, and Rome. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Railroad Bridge Dynamited; Travel Disrupted

PY041929 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2211 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Lima, 3 Apr (AFP)—Today the police reported that a presumed subversive column last night dynamited the central railroad bridge of Quebrada Honda (Junin Department, central zone of the country), causing considerable damage to the railroad. This action will prevent the circulation of freight and passenger trains.

According to the first reports, although the 20-kg explosive charge did not cause any casualties, it prevented the travel of approximately 1,000 passengers who were stranded today in the station of Huancayo, Junin capital, while on their way to Lima.

The source has reported that the zone has been visited by many national and foreign tourists during Holy Week.

The police added that the attack was carried out some 10 km from Huancayo and that the local inhabitants last night were alerted before the departure in the evening of the Huancayo-Lima passenger train.

Local railroad officials reported that service will be restored within the next few hours.

Moreover, yesterday a presumed subversive death squad from a moving vehicle machinegunned Civil Guard Humberto Ricardo Salinas, 26, who was walking on the street in a heavily populated Lima neighborhood. The attacks were carried out within the framework of the Holy Week offensive, which has left 40 casualties so far.

The guard underwent surgery at the Police Hospital, where doctors removed two bullets from his right lung and left arm. The doctors reported that he is in very serious condition. [passage omitted]

Suriname

Netherlands' Minister 'Encouraged' by Situation

FL301215 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek says he is encouraged by recent developments in Suriname, following 2 days of talks with top Surinamese officials. He said the establishment of a civilian government in Suriname will have a positive effect on relations with Holland. He did not say whether his government will resume aid to Suriname.

Ministers Assess Talks

FL301823 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] The most important result of the talks is that we now have the assurance that Holland will not shirk its responsibilities, which flow from the development cooperation treaty of 1955 between Suriname and Holland. This was stated by Suriname's foreign minister, Eddy Sedoc, during the joint press conference this morning with Dutch Foreign Minister van den Broek.

Both ministers told the local and foreign press about the results of the talks, which were conducted with the Suriname Government during the past 3 days. Minister Sedoc said the talks had lived up to their expectations. He said he's looking forward to the moment when Suriname can invite the Dutch minister of development cooperation, Piet Bukman, to have follow-up talks in Suriname. Mr van den Broek stated that the new possibilities and perspectives which have now surfaced would lead to complete restoration of relations between Suriname and Holland.

Soldiers Arrested for 'Insubordination'
FL011221 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Military police in Suriname have arrested an unknown number of soldiers. Rumors to the effect that the soldiers had been plotting a coup against the Surinamese Government were denied by the military spokesman. The SURINAMESE NEWS AGENCY reported the soldiers were arrested on charges of insubordination.